

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner allowed claim 1, raised various issues with regard to claim 2, made observations with regard to certain terminology used in the claims and raised objections to the figures.

By the present Amendment, a number of editorial revisions have been made throughout the specification and a description of Figure 2 has been added to page 35. It is evident that this description is based on the clearly marked elements of Figure 2 with the exception of the auxiliary anode which has been renumbered 23 on the figure in order to avoid a redundant use of the reference number vis-a-vis slit 16. A proposed modification of Figure 2, as well as of Figure 1 (wherein the typographical error "TF" has been corrected to --TP--) is set forth in a separate document.

Turning to the issues raised with respect to claim 2 on page 2 of the Action, applicants have amended such claim to make it clear that the defined micropores are physically exposed on the surface of the anodic oxidation coating after a development process with the pores having diameters of not more than 15 nm. The contact angle of the non-image area has also been clarified. In this respect, the development process cited in the claim is any known technique which will result in a planographic printing plate. Furthermore, it will be noted that the defined printing plate can contain either a negative recording layer as recited in claims 10-13 or a positive recording layer as recited in claims 14-17. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that those of ordinary skill in the art will be able to comprehend the metes and bounds of the claims, when read in light of the specification, which is all that is required by the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112.

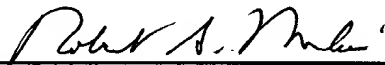
As a final point, applicants note that the description provided on page 22 of a thermal type photosensitive layer is not a specific description of all the layers which can be used, but rather a general disclosure regarding conventional thermal photosensitive layers which include both those that become more soluble and those that become less soluble, which reflects the different types of recording layers set forth in the aforementioned various dependent claims.

Since all matters raised in the Official Action are believed to have been fully resolved by the instant Amendment and the concurrently filed Request for Approval of Drawing Changes, applicants respectfully requested reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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